



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
517 E. WISCONSIN AVE.
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202

Press Release

INS to Open New Milwaukee Office with Ribbon Cutting

MILWAUKEE, July 11 -- Federal officials were joined by representatives of local government and community organizations this afternoon as the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) celebrated the opening of its new 14 million dollar Milwaukee office at 301 E. Knapp St. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

INS began moving into the three-story building at Knapp and Broadway in May. The new facility gives the agency 43,700 square feet of much-needed space to meet a steadily increasing demand for services, according to Roger Lindo, INS Officer-in-Charge of the Milwaukee office.

At today's ceremonies, held in the 2nd floor lobby of the new building, Lindo welcomed INS Chicago District Director Brian R. Perryman and Joseph Cuddihy, who was representing INS Acting Commissioner Kevin D. Rooney.

"The opening of this new facility is part of INS' on-going efforts to modernize and improve its facilities for our internal as well as external customers," said Perryman. "In the past 10 years, the INS Chicago District has re-built or re-configured all of its offices."

Following the invocation by the Rev. Michael F. Michalski, pastor of St. Joseph Church, Waukesha, Wi., the official red, white, and blue ribbon, placed across the front entrance, was officially cut by Lindo and Perryman, representing the INS; James C. Handley, Regional Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration; and Mitch Simborg, president, Simborg Development Inc., Homewood, Il.

The new building, designed specifically for INS operations, was developed by Simborg under a build-to-lease contract awarded by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), the federal government's real estate manager. Simborg's partner in the development is David Boerke of the Grubb & Ellis Milwaukee office.

GSA is leasing the facility from Simborg for an annual rent of \$1,658,000. The lease has a 10-year term with two 5-year options.

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Features of the new building include lobby waiting areas with seating for more than 300 persons, separate adjudication offices to provide privacy for clients, accommodations for handicapped individuals, video monitors to give clients ongoing information, secured indoor parking for government vehicles, and room for expansion as activities of the Milwaukee office increase.

In its previous location in the Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., INS had only 10,000 square feet of space, no room to expand, and an overflow of clients standing in the courthouse lobby, Lindo said.

To keep pace with demand for INS services, Lindo said staffing for the Milwaukee office has doubled since 1995, from 28 to 56 employees. He estimates the office currently draws 800 to 1,000 persons daily.

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